Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1, 2, 11 and 20 as follows:

B1

1. (Once amended) A method for the in vivo detection of fibrin in a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

administering to said patent an effective amount of a detectable reagent comprising a plurality of discrete particles dispersed in a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein at least some of said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in a plurality of layers of carbon and are capable of binding to fibrin;

binding at least a portion of said particles to at least a portion of said fibrin; and

detecting the presence of said detectable marker in said patient.

2. (Once amended) A method for the detection of fibrin in a source, said method comprising the steps of:

supplying to said source a detectable reagent comprising a plurality of discrete particles dispersed in a carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein at least some of said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in a plurality of layers of carbon and are capable of binding to fibrin;

binding at least a portion of said particles to at least a portion of said fibrin; and

detecting the presence of said detectable marker in said patient.

11. (Once amended) A detectable reagent for use in the in vivo or in vitro detection of fibrin, said detectable reagent comprising a plurality of discrete particles dispersed in a carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein at least some of said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in a plurality of layers of carbon, wherein at least a portion of said particles selectively bind to fibrin with a binding efficiency greater than the binding efficiency of said particles with other blood plasma proteins.

20. (Once amended) A method of targeting a drug to a fibrin site in vivo, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to a patient an effective amount of a reagent comprising a plurality of discrete particles dispersed in a veterinarily or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein at least some of said particles comprise a plurality of layers of carbon and are capable of binding to fibrin and at least some particles have coupled thereto a drug to be targeted to the fibrin site; and

binding at least a portion of said particles to said fibrin site;

whereby said drug is targeted to said fibrin site.

Please enter new claims 23-25:

23. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the surface of said particles is coated with a surfactant coating that increases the binding efficiency of said particles with fibrin.